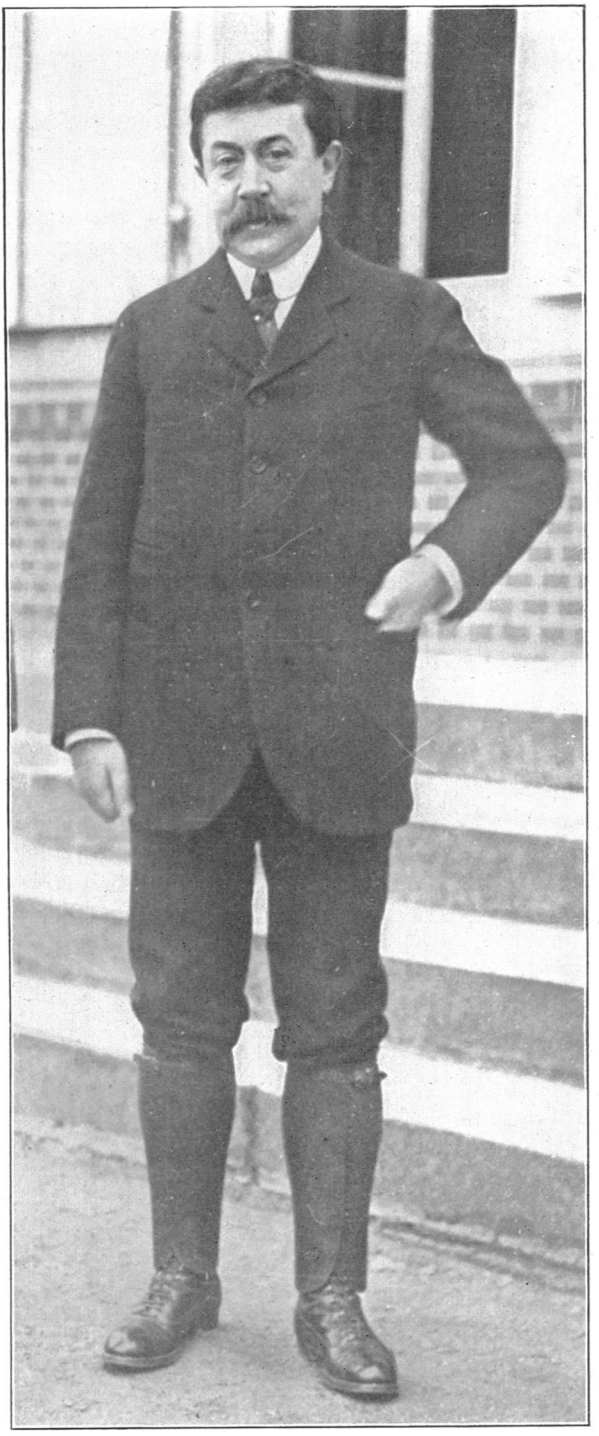


PAUL PAINLEVÉ,
The Distinguished Mathematician, now Premier of France.

THE PROGRESS OF SCIENCE

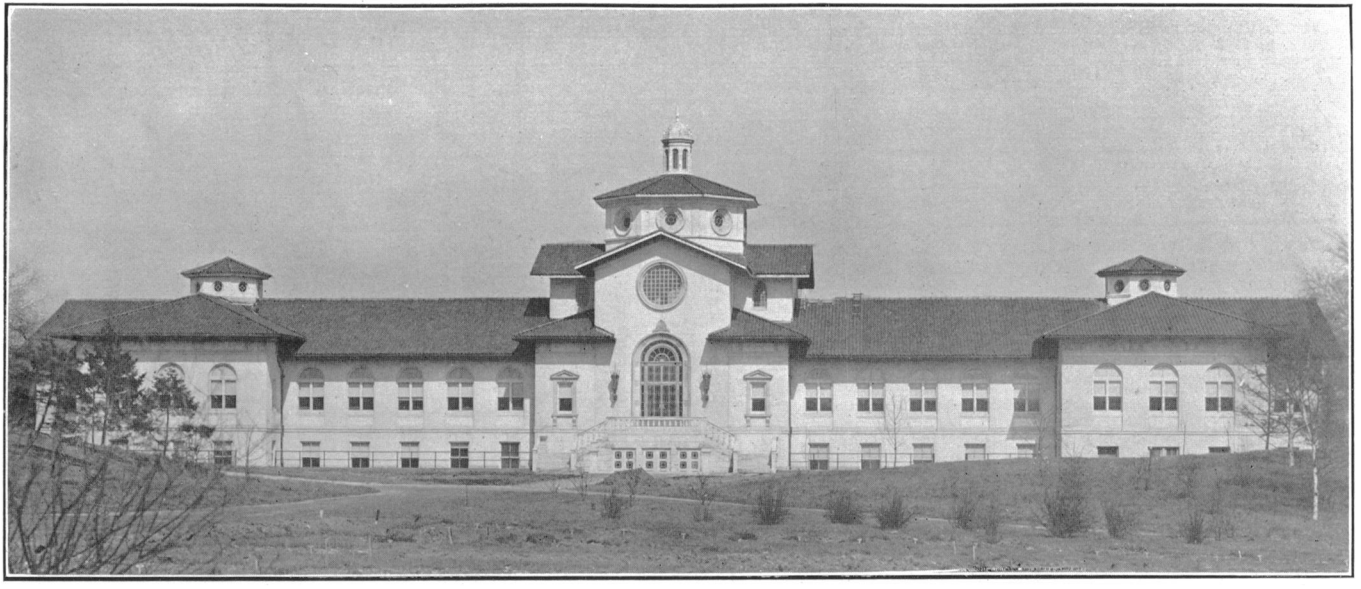
FRENCH CONTRIBUTIONS TO SCIENCE

M. PAUL PAINLEVÉ, professor of mathematics at the University of Paris and of mechanics at the Paris Polytechnic School, has become premier of France in the present national and world crisis. Like M. Ribot, whom he succeeds, and M. Poincaré, the President of the Republic, who called on him to form the cabinet, he had been minister of public instruction. It is a curious commentary on our democracy that education is not represented on our cabinet, also that we do not have ministers of state, but only secretaries, named by the President to do his will. M. Ribot is a member of the French Academy. M. Poincaré is also an author of distinction and bears a name which has been made even more eminent in mathematics than Painlevé's by his cousin, Henri Poincaré, perhaps the greatest of modern mathematicians, and by his brother, Lucien Poincaré, the well-known physicist and mathematician.

M. Painlevé became a deputy only in 1914. Previously he was known as one of the group of mathematicians which made Paris the leading mathematical center of the world, including among its members Poincaré, Darboux, Jordan, Picard, Appell, Goursat, Hadamard and Borel. Mathematical analysis is a natural product of the clear and logical intellect of the French; it is of interest that it should be applied to the conduct of affairs of state. France is the most highly civilized of the nations and has used most freely men of scientific and intellectual parts in its government. But a highly organized and centralized civilization has the defects of its qualities. It remains to be seen whether the control by English gentlemen—represented by men such as Mr. Asquith, Mr. Balfour and Earl Grey, or the control by intellectuals, such as M. Ribot, M. Poincaré and M. Painlevé, will longest resist the flood of socialistic democracy.

There has recently appeared under the auspices of the Society for American Fellowships in French Universities a book entitled "Science and Learning in France" intended as a national homage offered from the universities of America to the universities of France. The work is edited by Dr. John H. Wigmore, professor of law in Northwestern University, and was prepared by distinguished authors representing different departments of science and scholarship. There is also printed a list of sponsors, nearly a thousand in number, professors in American colleges and universities, who in numbers and in contributions to science and scholarship compare favorably with names which could be selected for France or any other country.

President Eliot, in an introduction entitled "The Mind of France," calls attention to the cordial appreciation of intellectual achievement and particularly of scientific investigation by the French people. They have always placed high among their national heroes their great scholars, authors and men of science. American students, planning to study in Europe, have sometimes supposed, judging from certain aspects of Parisian life, that the French are an inconstant, pleasure-loving, materialistic people. The great mass of the



THE LABORATORY BUILDING OF THE BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN.

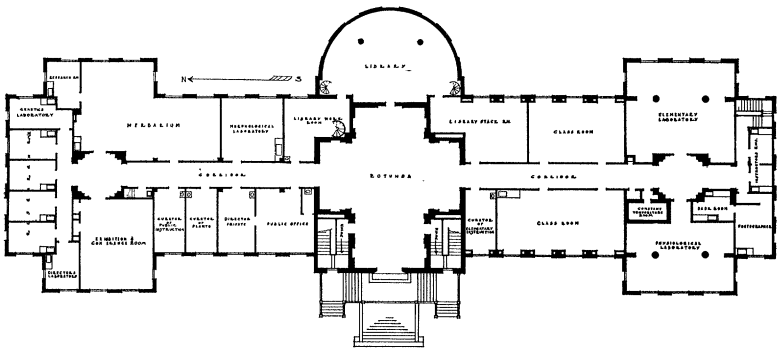
people are constant to great political and social ideals, intelligent and devoted to family, home and country. Dr. George E. Hale, the astronomer, and at present chairman of the National Research Council, writes on the intellectual inspiration of Paris, giving special attention to the work of Louis Pasteur. These introductions are followed by a series of articles beginning with anthropology, archeology and astronomy, and taking up in alphabetical order the main departments of science and scholarship. Each of the articles gives a brief description of French contributions to the subject, with special reference to the contemporary conditions at Paris and the provincial universities. There is finally given a full account of the educational advantages for Americans in France; a history of the recent changes in the university system; an account of the institutions of higher learning, their organization, degrees, requirements, fees, etc., and practical suggestions to students intending to take up graduate studies in France.

The great majority, probably more than nine tenths, of American students who have taken up work in foreign universities have done so in Germany. The universities of France and Great Britain have been too much neglected. In recent years the great development of American universities and the practical opportunities, offered by fellowships and promotion to positions have led most students to remain at home. It is, however, extremely desirable that there be a free exchange of students between our universities and those of the great European nations.

THE BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN

THE completed laboratory building and plant houses of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden have been dedicated with addresses by Prof. John Merle Coulter, officials of the City of New York, of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, of which the garden is a department, and by the director of the garden, Dr. C. Stuart Gager. Scientific sessions were held on two days, papers were read by thirty-nine botanists representing twenty institutions.

An article on the initial development and plans of the garden appeared in *The Popular Science Monthly* for April, 1912. Since that date the grounds have been enlarged by the addition of about ten acres, bringing two of the entrance gates directly opposite stations on the new subway lines, thus making the garden one of the most easily accessible of the numerous scientific institutions in Greater New York. The



MAIN FLOOR PLAN OF THE LABORATORY BUILDING.